



## missionary testimony: **It's Never Too Late**



**Mark 16:15 “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature”**

The Story of Don José Doña María  
as told by Gerardo Soria

In a visit to Nuestra Señora del Pilar parish in the District of Bravos in Zaragoza, I encountered two elderly people.

They lived alone, Don José is 89 year old, almost an invalid, and Doña María who is 84 years old, and has been blind for 10 years. (Don & Doña is a term of respect for Elder people) They have taken care of each other for 64 years with much love and respect, which is necessary when you have lived with someone that long.

They had seven children, who are all already married, although none of their children live with them, they have not abandoned their parents.

When I spoke with them I learned they have seen the parish grow since they live so close, but they never paid much attention to religion, and never thought about getting married at the Church. Up until that point they only had a civil union, and they did that after many years of living together.

*But for God age does not exist, nor time, nor plans, and God had a surprise planned for them.*

I remember they listened intently as I spoke of God's love, the trust that we are to have in God, and the mission that God calls each of us to.

Under the pretext of bringing food each time I visited them, I also brought brochures about God, I would read aloud as Don José doesn't know to read and Doña María is blind.

One day close to All Souls Day, I spoke with them about the eternal life that awaits us when we die, that God loves us all and wants us all be saved, but first we have to accept him as our Savior.

I believe because they felt old, weak and sick, and for many years they had lived without being married, they asked me not only to bring a priest to them to receive the anointing of the sick, but so they could be married. Don Jose said they wanted to die, “as God intended.”

*And God gave them their wish.*

The day of their wedding, which was in their house, all of their children and several relatives came, as well as their neighbors who saw all of the cars and the priest wearing the vestments.

The neighbors asked, “Who died, Don José or Doña María?”

“No one died! They are going to be married in the Church!”

Thanks be to God!

*Catholic World Mission is proud to stand by amazing men and women like Gerardo Soria. Through the support of our donors, we provide ETC missionaries with the means to continue serving communities in need.*